Report
on
"Patients with Conviction" Admitted to Facilities
of the
N. B. Alcoholism & Drug Dependency Commission
April 1, 1980 - March 31, 1981

Research & Evaluation Dept.
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This report is an in depth study of the patients who report convictions. Data reported here is taken from information compiled from the "Client Questionnaire" used within the Alcoholism and Drug Dependency Commission Information Retrieval System. This data was collected during the time period of April 1980 to March 31, 1981 inclusive.

There were 3080 clients admitted into the Alcoholism and Drug Dependency Commission treatment system during 1980-1981. Only clients admitted who reported at least one conviction in the past month were included in the present study. There were 509 clients fitting this definition. They made up 16.5% of the Commissions total admissions.

Table I shows the breakdown of the client population between treatment, rehab and longterm facilities; the breakdown of clients with convictions by facilities; and shows the percentage that "clients with convictions" made up of the total. For example it can be seen that 29.5% of Lonewater Farm's population reported at least one conviction in the month prior to admission, and that this is the highest rate of the five types of facilities reported in the table. Females in treatment facilities reported the lowest rate of convictions in the month prior to admission.

TABLE I

Total population by facility and sex;clients with convictions by facility. % that clients with convictions made up of the totals.

		April 1980-March 81 Population Totals	Clients with Convictions	Percentage of totals
Treatment Centres	male	2529	414	16.4 %
	female	204	17	8.3 %
Rehab Centre	male	242	51	21.1 %
	female	44	9	20.5 %
Lonewater Farm		61	18	29.5 %
		N= 3080	N=509	16.5%

Table II shows the percentage of each center's population that was made up of admissions reporting at least one conviction in the past month. Note that this table is presented with the centres listed in order of percentage of population reporting convictions, from highest to lowest.

It can be seen that one third of Lonewater Farm's total admissions in 1980-81 reported convictions within the month prior to admission. This probably reflects the fact that there are a fair number of court referrals made to this facility. Campbellton Treatment reported a quarter of their admissions have had a conviction in the month prior to admission. (This may be the result of referrals from the provincial jail).

By comparison, La Lanterne and Bathurst Treatment (male) reported low rates of admissions with convictions, 7.1% and 4.2% respectively. It would be of interest to discover why there are such varying rates among the centres.

Note that the centres with facilities for females reported low rates of female admissions with convictions with the exception of Ridgewood Rehab. Since the total female population admitted to Ridgewood Rehab was small, it is not possible to draw any conclusions as to why the rate may be so high.

TABLE II

Portion of each Centres Population (1980-81) reporting at least one conviction in the month prior to admission.

	Centre		Total pop	Convicted Pop	Rate in %
1.	Ridgewood R.	female	16	5	31.3%
2.	Lonewater Farm	male	61	18	29.5%
3.	Campbellton T.	male	148	36	24.3%
4.	Ridgewood R.	male	117	25	21.4%
5.	F'ton T.	male	497	106	21.3%
6.	Campbellton R.	male	125	26	20.8%
7.	Ridgewood T.	male	763	130	17.0%
8.	Newcastle T	male	307	50	16.3%
9.	Coburg House	female	28	4	14.3%
10.	Tracadie T	male	208	29	13.9%
11.	Moncton T	male	308	51	13.1%
12.	Ridgewood T	female	68	8	11.8%
13.	Fredericton T	female	73	6	8.2%
14.	LaLanterne	male	99	7	7.1%
15.	Moncton T	female	61	3	5%
16.	Bathurst T	male	119	5	4.2%
17.	Bathurst T	female	1	0	0
18.	Tracadie T.	female	1	0	0

Table III shows the percentage of the total "admissions with convictions" population present at each centre. This shows that four centres handled two thirds of all admissions with convictions: Ridgewood treatment 24.7%; Fredericton Treatment 21.3%; Moncton 10.1%, and Newcastle 9.9%. This is probably the result of the fact that Saint John, Fredericton, Moncton and the Newcastle Chatham areas are regions of highest population densities in the province. Note that females make up relatively small portions of the "convicted" population. In total only 5.2% of the admissions with convictions were female.

Total patient days for the Commission for the year April 1, 1980-March 31, 1981 were 26,427. Patients with convictions were responsible for 5019 days or 19% of the total.

TABLE III

Percentage of total convicted population presented at each centre.

Centre		# with Convictions	% of total convicted Pop
1. Ridgewood T.	male	130	25.7%
2. Fredericton T	male	106	21.3%
3. Moncton T	male	51	10.1%
4. Newcastle T	male	50	9.9%
5. Campbellton T	male	36	7.1%
6. Tracadie T.	male	29	5.7%
7. Campbellton R.	male	26	5.1%
8. Ridgewood R.	male	25	4.9%
9. Lonewater Farm	male	15	3.0%
10. Ridgewood T	female	8	1.6%
11. LaLanterne	male	7	1.4%
12. F'ton T.	female	6	1.2%
13. Ridgewood R.	female	5	1.0%
14. Bathurst T	male	5	1.0%
15. Coburg House	female	4	.8%
16. Moncton T	female	3	.6%
17. Bathurst T	female	0	0
18. Tracadie T	female	0	0
		506	100

Information on 35 variable giving a profile of a client at admission is available from the quarterly and annual print outs. By reviewing these variables and comparing clients reporting convictions to those without convictions, six variables were discovered that differed by greater than ten percent. It appeared that "age", "age of first drink", "age drinking became a problem", "quarrels", "marital status" and "religious participation" were variables that might have effected a difference between "patients with convictions" and those without.

The group with convictions appeared to be somewhat younger than the rest; they seemed to have begun drinking at a slightly younger age; drinking became a problem for them at a younger age than the rest; they engaged in more quarrels; they were less likely to be married; and were less likely to be participating in religious practices.

These six factors were looked at in depth by a statistical test of significance (F-test) and it was found that the "age" and "age at which drinking became a problem "variables were the factors that were least likely to have arisen by chance. That is, the group of patients with convictions were younger than the no-convictions group and they developed a drinking problem at a younger age than the no-convictions group. See appendix I for F-scores for each of the six variables.

Discussion

As a result of these findings a profile of the typical client with at least one conviction in the month prior to admission can be drawn:

The individual would most likely be male. He would probably be admitted to a centre in a high population density region, like Saint John or Fredericton, in the south of the province. He would more than likely be younger than the other clients usually admitted, and would report having developed a problem at a younger age than that usually reported at admission.

This profile is of interest since these persons with convictions will possibly represent a considerable percentage of clients who would be affected by the Intoxicated Persons Act.

The information summarized here points to the need for co-operation between the Justice Intervention and Treatment/Rehab staffs in dealing with patients with convictions, and the need to inform staff of the specific characteristics of this group in order for them to meet the needs of the patients with convictions.

APPENDIX I

F scores for the six variables

Variable	*F-score*	*DF*
Age	*13.4**	*1,6*
Age of first drink	*.94*	*1,6*
Age drinking became problem	*14.5**	*1,6*
Quarrels	*3.3*	*1,3*
Marital Status	*1.5*	*1,5*
Religious Participation	*6.7*	*1,1*

* $P > .05$

$P > .01$